

## This incumbent sets the record

To the Editor:

Last Wednesday, after returning from an intense meeting of the Environmental Research Advisory Committee at the State House in Concord, I was looking forward to reading the local news in the *Argus-Champion*. As I read the "Letters to the Editor," however, I was bewildered. Who was the "incumbent" referred to in a letter from Mr. Spec Bowers?

As Sunapee's incumbent state representative and running for re-election, I have not participated in any vote on an \$800,000 increase in Sunapee county taxes. The figures used in the letter can only reflect the proposed budget of the county commissioners, not the executive finance committee, of which I am a member, or the county delegation. The delegation (your 13 county state representatives) will have final approval of a county budget.

Any increase in county taxes will be due to what I consider grave misjudgments on the part of previous commissioners and the former county manager. I have spent countless hours uncovering hidden facts and expenditures in an effort to make the budget process open and clearer to all. In addition, I and several other members of the delegation urged the commissioners to

take steps to limit expenditures this year. Their subsequent action resulted in significant mid-year spending reductions.

Most mysterious, is the claim that I, the "incumbent," voted to make Sunapee a donor town. Had the writer looked more closely at the voting record, he would have seen that this is not true.

Sunapee Selectmen requested that I consider the recommendation of the Coalition Communities when voting on Senate Bill 539-FN, the Adequate Education Costing bill. The Coalition, an organization of New Hampshire towns, Sunapee among them, with statewide property tax issues, asked that the costing of an adequate education be considered separate from the funding and distribution of aid. This was a position I could support.

The selectmen were all fully aware of my intention to give SB 539-FN a chance to be modified by voting "yes" and allowing the bill to move from the Education Committee to the Finance Committee. Although the Finance Committee improved the bill for Sunapee taxpayers, the changes were not sufficient. Therefore, when the bill came to the House for a final vote, I voted "no." I never voted to make Sunapee a donor town and such an assertion is unfounded.

Holding elective office is a privilege and responsibility that requires diligence and time to get the facts and convey them accurately. Voters deserve no less. I am proud to represent Sunapee and work with all its citizens to benefit our town, our county and our state.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail at [suefor-sunapee@comcast.net](mailto:suefor-sunapee@comcast.net) or by phone at 763-5904.

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